



*School psychology students strive to become competent, socially conscious and reflective professionals.*

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## Generation Text By Jackie DiBrienza

On November 20, 2008, guest speaker Dr. Michael Osit, a Clinical Psychologist and author, provided a free lecture to Seton Hall students regarding today's youth, who he has termed, "Generation Text" due to the availability of technology that has greatly impacted their growth and development. Dr. Osit gave a wonderful presentation on how today's youth have grown up using technology, giving some a sense of entitlement because they can obtain desirable possessions at the "click of a mouse". The Internet has had a major impact on society and the latest generation, allowing for communication with people from all over the world. The internet has allowed the next generation of youth to access information and interact with others but there are some drawbacks to communicating through technology. The social skills that develop from in-person interactions are lost in translation when done through the computer or text messaging. Social networking sites such as MySpace and Facebook have allowed strangers to have access to peoples personal lives, now posted on the internet for others to view. Further, adolescents may let down there guard when communicating on the internet, saying things that they would typically not say in person, which may or may not be beneficial. Also, children and adolescents are developing a sense of entitlement at a younger age, due to the availability of cell phones, the internet, handheld communication devises, etc. which allow for instant gratification. Because cell phones are a staple in today's society, it is now considered "unusual" to not be able to contact someone at any given time of the day.

Dr. Osit continued to describe today's society as providing "access and excess", meaning that our youth have continuous access to not only material items but to people as well. Because of this continuous access, they have the ability to communicate in excess, at all hours of the day for an undesignated length of time. Our youth's advance in technology has created, what Dr. Osit feels, is not a "generation gap" but a "generation crater" due to parents lack of knowledge and understanding of technology and our youths overindulgence and education at younger ages. He went on to say that there is more interaction with machines than with people. Dr. Osit's book, Generation Text, also describes "modeling down" in which our children are obtaining material possessions at younger ages than in the past. (Continued on Page 2)

Raising Well-Adjusted Kids in an Age of Instant Everything

## GENERATION TEXT



DR. MICHAEL OSIT

Generation Text,  
by Dr. Michael Osit

# Generation Text

(Continued from Page 1) A few years ago, a child may not have obtained the privilege of a cell phone until he or she reached the age of 16, where in today's society, children are obtaining such technology at younger ages. Further, parents are working more often with longer hours than they were in the 50's and 60's. Parents are then feeling a sense of guilt, resulting in them giving in to their children's requests more often. Also, due to the overexposure of sex and violence in today's media, our youth are becoming desensitized to graphic material that use to be reserved for adult audiences.



Dr. Osit's presentation was very informative and greatly appreciated. His sense of humor and logical explanations made the presentation an added bonus to our School Psychology program and we thank him for bringing his knowledge to Seton Hall University.

## Advocacy: Increased Student Achievement

### Through Increased Student Support Act by Michael Appelgren

By Michael Appelgren

Come join myself and other school psychologists in supporting the "Increased Student Achievement through Increased Student Support Act." This bill creates a federal grant program designed to increase the number of school counselors, school psychologists, and school social workers serving low-income local educational agencies. Research shows that students are being affected by mental health issues that impact on academic achievement. Teachers not only are forced with academic issues, but must now handle social, emotional, and

behavioral problems. Because of the pressure on teachers, these individuals are deciding to leave their jobs. If there were more mental health professionals in the school, mental health issues would be addressed and teachers would have more time to address academic needs instead of social, emotional, and behavioral problems, which in turn would raise student achievement.

You can read more about the bill on the NASP website at [www.nasponline.org](http://www.nasponline.org) and click on the advocacy center. You can also send a letter to your senator and representative through the

NASP website. You do not have to write anything, everything is written for you. All you need to do is fill in your contact information. I recently received a response from our State Senator Robert Mendez. He is one of the co-sponsors of the bill. The more people send letters to our senators and representatives, it is more likely for them to pay attention to these issues. Please take five seconds and send a letter to your representative.

*"If there were more mental health professionals in the school, mental health issues would be addressed and teachers would have more time to address academic needs"*

## NASP Student Leader Update by Jamie Koransky, NASP Student Leader

At our first SPLASH meeting of the new school year, members were given a presentation on the benefits of student membership with NASP. NASP plays a strong role in supporting our profession. Being a member supports NASP's important leadership and is a privilege and professional responsibility. If you still have not become a member, joining online at [nasponline.org](http://nasponline.org) is easy!

November 10-14, 2008 was School Psychology Awareness Week. This year the focus was "Making a Difference: Ensuring All Children Are Ready to Learn." In order to raise awareness about school psychology, Michael Appelgren (SPLASH's Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD) Ambassador) and I spoke to psychology undergraduate students at Seton Hall University. We were able to inform the students about career opportunities within the field of school psychology. The students responded well, were engaged and had many relevant and interesting questions. In order to raise more awareness about our field on cam-

pus, we held a bake sale on Tuesday, November 11 in Jubilee Hall. The money raised will support the various needs of our student organization, SPLASH, and go towards supporting the Polar Bear Plunge (sponsored by the Special Olympics of New Jersey) held on February 28, 2009.

NASP's Annual Convention will be held in Boston, Massachusetts from February 24-28, 2009. This year's theme is "Take Strides to Make a Difference." Bettyann Monteleone, Shannon Burke, and I will be presenting a poster presentation entitled "A School Based Program to Combat the Sexualization of Girls" on Friday, February 27, 2009. Many other SPLASH members will also be at the convention as attendees and presenters representing Seton Hall University. A student gathering will be held Friday night in Boston. There is still time to register for the convention at [nasponline.org](http://nasponline.org). Attending conventions is highly recommended and is a great opportunity to meet other professionals and students in the field!

## WAIS-IV Workshop Review by Jackie Karlsson

On Tuesday, November 18, 2008, the School and Community Psychology Program of the College of Education and Human Services and Department of Professional Psychology and Family Therapy at Seton Hall University welcomed Mr. James A. Simone M.A., a Pearson Clinical Consultant, for a presentation in a lecture and discussion format on revisions to the Wechsler Adult Intelligence Scale (WAIS-IV). A large turnout of both students and educators comprised the successful workshop.

The learning objectives included an overview of the WAIS-IV scales, comparing the WAIS-III to the WAIS-IV, reliability and validity measures of the new test, administration, as well as scoring and interpreting of the WAIS-IV. The interactive presentation covered the four subtests dropped, the twelve subtests retained with modification, and the three new subtests. The College of Education and Human Services at Seton Hall is a New Jersey Professional Development Provider and upon completion of the workshop each attendee was provided with (2) Continuing Professional Development Credits. As a first year student in the M.A. School and Community Psychology Program, it was inspiring to see how important a conference as the WAIS-IV workshop exposes you to many of the different levels of other individuals in this continuing profession.

Thank you to all those who came out that evening to make the workshop a success and an extended appreciation to the SPLASH volunteers for hosting a bake sale during registration and following the workshop.



For further information on WAIS-IV content-related questions, please feel free to contact [susan.raiford@pearson.com](mailto:susan.raiford@pearson.com) or [diane.coalson@pearson.com](mailto:diane.coalson@pearson.com), or visit [pearsonassess.com](http://pearsonassess.com)

## Good News Report by Ashley Pagan



Greetings! This Fall semester has been one of great accomplishments and successes. On behalf of the good news report committee I would like to take the time to recognize Cindy Del Tufo, Aracelis Lopez, Jaclyn DiBrienza, Kristin Teel, Debora Buzinkai, Kerry McNeill, Dania Diaz, Ashley Adams, Tara Burleigh, Shannon Cooper, Sharonda Hilyard, Virginia Nebbia, Jennifer McKenny, Maritza Navarro and Kari Ring whom comprise the December 2008 and May 2009 Ed.S graduates! Your hard work, dedication and commitment to this program serve as an inspiration to all of the MA/Ed.S students here at Seton Hall University. The SPLASH committee wants to

wish all of you the best of luck in your future endeavors. A big congratulation goes out to Debbie Pulito, Bahar Mansur, Lauren Campanile, Keith Koellhoffer, Kristen Rudiger, Kristen Scully, Cara Joan Keating and all other individuals whom passed the November Competency Exams! All of your hard work, time and efforts have paid off. We would like to extend congratulation to Shannon Burke for recently becoming an Aunt. Lastly, we also want to congratulate Ashley Adams on the birth of her daughter, Haley Kathryn Adams on December 11, 2008.

Good Luck this semester and keep the good news coming!

**Congratulations  
Exam Passers!**

**Congratulations  
Graduates!**

**Congratulations  
Ashley Adams**

Good Luck this  
semester and  
keep the good  
news coming!

## Don't Forget the POLAR BEAR PLUNGE!

There is nothing like standing on the beach with the wind in your hair, your toes in the sand, the ocean water only yards away. Especially in February.

This year over 3,000 people are expected to rush into the bitter cold Jersey waters. Maybe they are hoping for fame and glory. Maybe they just love the feeling of freezing sand, air, and water against bare skin. Whatever their reasons, all are *plunging* to support Special Olympics New Jersey.

Join the other Polar Bears and head to Seaside Heights for the 16th Annual Polar Bear Plunge on February 28th, 2009. If you can't take the plunge (maybe you're too busy at the NASP conference in Boston), you can still donate.

Make a SPLASH! Support the Special Olympics by visiting



**Dr. Massarelli and Visiting Students, Megan Monzo and Kate Boyle, from Rowan University at the December SPLASH meeting.**

Remember the two GUSTO representatives at the latest SPLASH meeting? GUSTO is the Graduate and Undergraduate Student Organization of NJASP. GUSTO's goal is to develop, promote, and maintain relationships with undergraduate and graduate students in New Jersey. Contact Megan Monzo, Chair ([mmonzo@edgewaterpark.k12.nj.us](mailto:mmonzo@edgewaterpark.k12.nj.us)) or Kate Boyle, Co-Chair ([kbblondie8@yahoo.com](mailto:kbblondie8@yahoo.com)) for more information.

## SPLASH MISSION STATEMENT

*The School Psychology Leaderships Association of Seton Hall (SPLASH) represents the interests of graduate school psychology students engaged in the enhancement of Seton Hall University's School and Community Psychology Program. The mission of SPLASH is to heighten the awareness of and advocate for issues relevant to the professional field of school psychology. Members of SPLASH intend to accomplish this through building a strong network of colleagues, remaining informed about current issues that affect our profession and encouraging others to enter the school psychology profession. It is our goal as future school psychologists to become competent, socially conscious and reflective professional leaders who advocate for the needs of a diverse society of students, families and communities (2005).*

# Director's Corner



Welcome to a new semester and to a new year! I would first like to congratulate the December 2008 and May 2009 EdS graduates. They are:

Ashley Adams, Debora Buzinkai,, Tara Burleigh, Kerry McNeill, Jennifer McKenny, Maritza Navarro, Virginia Nebbia, Shannon Cooper, Dania Olivo-Diaz, Cindy DelTufo, Kari Ring, Jaclyn DiBrienza, Kristin Teel, and Sharonda Hilyard.

Recently, a few students from the program had a chance to brave the snow to attend the New Jersey Association of School Psychologists Winter Conference held at the Crowne Plaza

Hotel in Jamesburg, New Jersey. The conference was well-attended; we heard from two keynote speakers, Dr. Ralph E. Cash, President of NASP, speaking on "Make a Difference: Be the Difference!" and Dr. Howard C. Stevenson from the University of Pennsylvania, presenting on "The Art of Racial Negotiation in Teacher-Student Relationships." Both speakers were interesting and insightful!

There were also workshops which dealt with such topics as Intervention and Referral Services, Suicide, Connors 3 and the CBRS, Neuropsychology of Reading and Math Disorders, and Executive Functions; Concepts and Assessment. The next conference will be on Friday, May 1, 2009. You can sign up to be a student affiliate member and attend the spring conference. Membership is only 35 dollars a year. Click on the link to download the application form. [http://www.njasp.org/notes/2008\\_njasp\\_application.pdf](http://www.njasp.org/notes/2008_njasp_application.pdf)

As we start the new semester, here are a couple of things to pay close attention to:

- 1) NCATE - Report on our School Psychology Program (February 2009).
- 2) NASP Convention in Boston - February 24-28, 2009 (poster presentations and papers)
- 3) Polar Plunge - Special Olympics - February 28, 2009 - Seaside Heights, NJ
- 4) Bake Sale!
- 5) Comprehensive Exam M.A. - March 21, 2009 (application dead line - March 1, 2009)
- 6) Applications to EdS program - submit application before April 1, 2009
- 7) NJASP Conference - May 1, 2009
- 8) Graduation - May 11, 2009

Best wishes for a prosperous and productive spring semester!

Dr. Massarelli  
Program Director  
School & Community Psychology Program



A Few of the December Graduates

## 2008-2009 **SPLASH** COMMITTEE MEMBERS

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<b>NJPA PINS Student Rep</b>	Kristin Rudiger Kristen Skully	

**\*Please volunteer to join a committee!**

**We still need SWASP Student Representatives!**

**Email has changed at Seton Hall. Please let us know if your email address has changed!**